Statement

Total number of judges in the Supreme Court and different High Courts

Position as on 6.08.2004

Sl. No.	Court	Sanctioned strength	No. of Judges in position	No. of Women Judges	No. of male Judges
	SUPREME COURT	26	22	—	22
	HIGH COURTS				
1.	Allahabad	95	76	04	72
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	31	02	29
3.	Bombay	61	53	05	48
4.	Calcutta	50	42	02	40
5.	Chhattisgarh	08	06	00	06
6.	Delhi	36	32	05	27
7.	Gauhati	23	23	01	22
8.	Gujarat	42	30	03	27
9.	Himachal Pradesh	09	09	00	09
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	09	00	09
11.	Jharkhand	12	09	00	09
12.	Karnataka	40	36	01	35
13.	Kerala	29	27	01	26
14.	Madhya Pradesh	42	41	04	37
15.	Madras	46	44	04	40
16.	Orissa	20	14	01	13
17.	Patna	31	31	04	27
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	35	01	34
19.	Rajasthan	40	37	01	36
20.	Sikkim	3	01	00	01
21.	Uttaranchal	9	09	00	09
	TOTAL:	689	595	39	556

Vacant posts of HC judges

803. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of High Court judges in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are number of vacant posts of High Court judges and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether large number of cases are pending in High Courts because of shortage of judges; and.

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to fill the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) The pendency of cases in the Courts could be ascribed to various factors, which *inter-alia*, include vacancies of Judges, new legislations, substantial increase in fresh institution of cases, rise in population, heightened awareness of rights on the part of the citizens, granting of adjournments, industrial development in the country, increase in trade and commerce and socio-economic matters, legislative and administrative aspects touching on the life of citizens, lawyers' strikes etc.

(d) Filling up of vacancies in High Courts is a continuous consultative process among the constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges.

Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges in the High Courts lies with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and anticipated vacancies during the next six months.

Statement

Total number of High Court judges in the country

Sl. No.	High Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working strength	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	95	76	19
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	31	08
3.	Bombay	61	53	08
4.	Calcutta	50	42	08
5.	Chhattisgarh	08	06	02
6.	Delhi	36	32	04
7.	Gauhati	23	23	00
8.	Gujarat	42	30	12
9.	Himachal Pradesh	09	09	00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	09	05
11.	Jharkhand	12	09	03
12.	Karnataka	40	36	04
13.	Kerala	29	27	02
14.	Madhya Pradesh	42	41	01
15.	Madras	46	44	02

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Orissa	20	14	06
17.	Patna	31	31	00
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	35	05
19.	Rajasthan	40	37	03
20.	Sikkim	03	01	02
21.	Uttarakhand	09	09	00
	TOTAL:	689	595	94

Pending cyber crime cases

804. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 1000 cases relating to cyber crimes are pending in courts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only two cases have been decided, so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the slow progress and the steps proposed to be taken to expedite these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Digitally linking of courts

†805. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scheme of digitally connecting courts is being implemented, in order to make the judiciary hitech;

(b) if so, the funds sanctioned for this purpose; and

(c) by when the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) With a view to facilitating speedy disposal of cases in courts and to make the country's judicial system more efficient, the Government approved on 8th February, 2007 a scheme for Computerisation of District and Subordinate Courts, and for upgradation of the Information and Communication Technology infrastructure of the Supreme Court and High Courts. The scheme, *inter-alia*, provides for electronic networking of the lowest court with the highest court. The project is to be implemented in three phases over a period of five years and an amount of Rs.442 crore has been approved for the first phase.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.